

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 DODE-00 L-03

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S/S:MR. BORG

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TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161090

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y "C" REF ADDED & PERIOD END PARA 5

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SY, UN, IS, PLO, XF

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE LAUNCHING OF ARAB CAMPAIGN TO OUST
ISRAEL FROM UNGA AT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 157805; B. DAMASCUS 2552; C.
DAMASCUS 2543

GENEVA PASS TO MOYNIHAN

FOR AMBASSADOR

1. DEPARTMENT NOTES (REFTELS B & C) THAT ISRAELI UN

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SUSPENSION ISSUE HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS

WITH SYRIANS, BUT YOU SHOULD CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER TO FORMALLY EXPRESS U.S. VIEWS ON POSSIBILITY THAT DECISION MAY BE TAKEN AT ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR JIDDA, JULY 12-15, ON LAUNCHING CAMPAIGN TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM 30TH UNGA. YOU SHOULD ELICIT FROM KHADDAM IF POSSIBLE CLEARER PICTURE OF SYRIAN INTENTIONS IN THIS REGARD.

2. YOU SHOULD SAY THAT US HOPES THAT REPORT THAT WE HAVE HEARD THAT A DECISION TO LAUNCH SUCH A CAMPAIGN AT JIDDA MEETING IS INACCURATE, AND THAT ISSUE WILL NOT BE RAISED. HOWEVER, THEY DO UNDERSTAND HOW SERIOUSLY WE TAKE MATTER, AND THAT WE ARE SUFFICIENTLY CONCERNED TO MAKE OUR VIEWS KNOWN CLEARLY IN ADVANCE OF SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

3. WE UNDERSTAND SYRIAN VIEW, FROM KISSINGER/KHADDAM DISCUSSIONS ON SUBJECT OF SUSPENSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE UN IN WASHINGTON, IS THAT ARAB INITIATIVE ON MATTER WILL BE DETERMINED BY STATUS OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS. US CHIEF CONCERN IS THAT AT THIS CRITICAL STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS, ACTION ON SUSPENSION ISSUE NOW WOULD UNDERMINE THOSE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS THAT ARE BEING MADE IN SIMILAR DEMARCHEES TO RABAT, TUNIS, ALGIERS, CAIRO, AMMAN, AND JIDDA: US STRONGLY OPPOSED TO THE SUSPENSION OR EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL FROM THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AND FOR THE SAKE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AS WELL AS FROM THE PRACTICAL STANDPOINT THAT SUCH A MOVE MIGHT VIRTUALLY BRING TO A HALT FURTHER NEGOTIATING EFFORTS FOR A PEACE SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THE US FEELS THAT THE ISSUE SHOULD NOT EVEN COME BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND IS CONCERNED LEST INITIATIVES TAKEN ON THIS ISSUE COULD SET IN MOTION A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WOULD BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP OR DIVERT. EVENTHOUGH IT MAY NOT BE EASY TO RESIST PROPOSALS IN FAVOR OF SUCH A MOVE AT JIDDA, DOING SO WILL BE A SMALL EFFORT COMPARED TO THE POLITICAL PRICE THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE PAID TO STOP IT LATER. SOME MIGHT THINK OF SUCH AN INITIATIVE AS A MANEUVERABLE PRESSURE DEVICE

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BUT IT COULD WELL GET OUT OF THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO SHARE OUR DESIRE FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN THE PEACEFUL SEARCH FOR A ME SETTLEMENT, AND INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO REJECT THIS COURSE.

5. SHOULD IT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE GA, ISRAEL COULD WELL ARGUE THAT IT WAS NO LONGER BOUND BY UN RESOLUTIONS, INCLUDING RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 344 WHICH ARE, RESPECTIVELY,

THE AGREED BASIS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

6. EVEN MORE FUNDAMENTAL, ACTION TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WOULD UNDERCUT THOSE IN THE US AND
EUROPE, NOT TO MENTION THOSE IN ISRAEL, WHO ARE WORKING
FROM THE PREMISE THAT LEADING ARAB GOVERNMENTS ARE PRE-
PARED TO ACCEPT ISRAEL AND MAKE PEACE. PUBLIC REACTION TO
SUCH A MOVE IN THE WEST WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY WEAKEN THE UN,
PERHAPS BEYOND REPAIR, WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONTRIBUTION TO
A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST; IN REALITY THE
END RESULT WOULD MAKE ANY PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE
INFINITELY MORE DIFFICULT AND THE DRIFT TO WAR MUCH MORE
LIKELY. INGERSOLL

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